Newt's safety is on us

WASHINGTON (AP) – Taxpayers are helping pay for protecting House Speaker Newt Gingrich on his 25-city book tour. Plainclothes officers from the U.S. Capitol Police are guarding him, while a private detail hired by his publisher has other security duties.

Capitol Police Sgt. Dan Nichols said Friday that the security provided for Gingrich while he promotes his best-selling book, "To Renew America," continues the protection normally given to the House speaker.

"We provide that at all times it's necessary ... anywhere in the United States, no matter what activity," Sgt. Nichols said.

Sgt. Nichols declined to specify the number of officers involved or the cost, citing security reasons. He would not confirm a report in Friday's *New York Daily News* that cited House Democrats' estimates that the bill for meals, air fare and lodging could reach $100,000, or about $10,000 per officer.